UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22474
10 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and further to the letter of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone addressed to you on 9 April 1991, I have the honour to transmit the attached report detailing a series of invasions launched against Sierra Leone by bandits of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

I request you to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tom Obaleh KARGBO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Report on the invasion of Sierra Leone by National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) bandits led by Charles Taylor

At 0800 hours on Saturday, 23 March 1991, a contingent of armed bandits of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor, attacked the border towns of Bomaru and Senga in the eastern province of Sierra Leone, killing two Senior Military Officers and 11 civilians. Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces (RSLMF) were dispatched to the area and, after an intense engagement, the NPFL invaders were repelled. This incident was only the first of several invasions to be launched over a period of time by the NPFL.

In the morning of Wednesday, 27 March, NPFL troops numbering several hundreds and using heavy machine-guns and rocket launchers, mounted repeated attacks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, onto Sunday, 31 March, culminating in the deaths of scores of civilians, including women and children.

In the case of the invasion of Koindu, a populous and prosperous commercial centre in the eastern province of Sierra Leone, the invading army seized the Police Station and the regional branch of the National Commercial Bank. Throughout the affected area, looting and damage to property, including crops and food stocks, as well as infrastructure, have been extensive, causing the displacement of large numbers of Sierra Leone citizens.

Since 1 April, Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces have retaken large areas previously held by the invading army, including Koindu, capturing three Senior NPFL Commanders who are now being interrogated.

It has been established, through Government intelligence and accounts of captured rebel soldiers, that the NPFL invading force comprises a large proportion of mercenaries supplied and/or financed by, regrettably, some African countries. The foregoing incidents demonstrate a carefully planned strategy by Charles Taylor and his backers to destabilize Sierra Leone in a bid to undermine the ECOWAS peace process in Liberia.

While striving to restore normalcy to the affected areas, the Government of Sierra Leone wishes to assure the international community that it is determined to resist any attempts to intimidate it into abandoning its neutral role in the Liberian conflict. Similarly, Government will not be provoked into curtailing its generous goodwill to the distressed and innocent Liberian citizens, especially the women and children, who have sought refuge in Sierra Leone.

Because of the seriousness and persistence of these attacks, Government reserves the right to use all necessary means, including assistance from friendly countries, to protect the lives of its people and defend the territorial integrity of Sierra Leone.